

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR UNDERSECRETARY COOPER; EUR FOR HARTMAN
AND ALBRECHT

PASS AID FOR BIRNBAUM, PPC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, EAID, EFIN
SUBJECT: OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PRESIDENCY - HEADS OF
DELEGATION MEETING, MARCH 17

1. IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DEADLOCK OVER PRESIDENCY OF
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP CALLED HEADS OF
DELEGATION MEETING ON MARCH 17. SEC GEN FORCEFULLY SAID
THAT UNDER CONVENTION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE IT WAS UP
TO HIM TO PROPOSE A CANDIDATE, AS HE HAS DONE, AND DUTY
OF COUNCIL TO RESPOND. NEVERTHELESS, ALL FIVE CANDIDATES
WERE MENTIONED IN THE ENSUING TOUR DE TABLE, AND IT WAS
CONFIRMED THAT LINE-UP DESCRIBED IN PARA 3 OF OECD
PARIS 5980 REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME. HOWEVER, STRONG
SUPPORT FOR EACH CANDIDATE SEEMS LIMITED TO THE RE-
SPECTIVE SPONSORING GOVERNMENTS. AMBASSADOR TURNER
MENTIONED THAT U.S. ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT OF BRITISH
CANDIDATE LITTLE FAIRLY SOON AFTER HE WAS PUT FORWARD,
AND THAT MISSION HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO
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THE CONTRARY.

2. SOME HEADS OF DEL SUGGESTED CREATION OF A POST OF
VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE CENTRE WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE
ONE OF THE CANDIDATES. BUT NEITHER SEC GEN NOR MOST OF
THOSE SPEAKING TO THIS ISSUE (INCLUDING U.S.) THOUGHT
THIS AN ADVISABLE WAY TO EASE THE DILEMMA. INSTEAD,

MOST SPEAKERS AGREED THAT VICE-PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED LATER ON ITS MERITS.

3. SECGEN CONCLUDED THAT THERE MUST BE ANOTHER MEETING OF HEADS OF DEL ON THIS TOPIC FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON (EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AT WHICH HE CAN PRE-SIDE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 25), AND AGAIN SAID THAT HIS NOMINEE IS THE ONE HE WANTS GOVERNMENTS TO FOCUS ON.

4. COMMENTS: AS STALEMATE CONTINUES, AND ASSUMING AS WE DO THAT VAN LENNEP WILL STICK TO HIS GUNS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY IS HIS TO PROPOSE A NAME AND GOVERNMENTS TO REACT, OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT MORE AND MORE DELEGATIONS WILL BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT SECGEN'S POSITION CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED IN LONG RUN. AS UNDER SECRETARY COOPER MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR TURNER DURING XCSS IN DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE, IN LAST ANALYSIS COUNCIL MUST BACK UP ITS CHOSEN MANAGER IN SUCH KEY PERSONNEL MATTERS, EXCEPT UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. AS WE SEE IT, IF WE AGREE WITH SECGEN'S VIEW OF SECGEN/COUNCIL DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS TYPE SITUATION, WE NOW SHOULD REACT POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY TO HIS PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF SABOURIN. OUR POSITIVE REACTION PROBABLY WOULD IN END ENSURE COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON SABOURIN. NEGATIVE REACTION WOULD PRESUMABLY BE BASED ON EVIDENCE AND ASSESSMENT THAT SABOURIN IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY QUALIFIED, AND THAT SECGEN, IN HIS OWN TERMS, SHOULD GO BACK TO DRAWING BOARD AND COME UP WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANOTHER NOMINATION. SUCH A COURSE WOULD ENTAIL SOME LOSS OF PRESTIGE FOR SECGEN, PERHAPS DIFFICULTIES WITH CANADIANS, AND PERHAPS RESULT IN ANOTHER LONG DELAY AS VAN LENNEP SEARCHED FOR ANOTHER AND MORE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD THEN PROPOSE LITTLE OR, FOR THAT MATTER, URI. HE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY NOMINATE FAALAND (NORWAY) OR EVEN VAN BILSEN (BELGIUM). OR HE MIGHT FEEL OBLIGATED TO START A FRESH SEARCH FOR A TOTALLY NEW NAME.

6. IN ANY EVENT, IF AND WHEN WE DECIDE ON A POSITION WHICH ENTAILS ACCEPTING A CANDIDATE OTHER THAN LITTLE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR UNDER SECRETARY COOPER TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MICHAEL BUTLER EXPLAINING OUR POSITION. TURNER

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